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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Handique et al.

Application No.: 09/819,105

Group Art Unit 1741

1743

Filed: March 28, 2001

Examiner: N/A

Ludlow

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS
FOR CONTROL OF
MICROFLUIDIC DEVICES

Attorney Docket No.: 10255-014-999

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment in the file of the above-identified application. Submitted herewith is Exhibit A, a marked up version of the replacement paragraphs of the specification, and two sheets of drawings with amended Figs. 6A and 11A.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning "Most microfluidic devices in the prior art" with the following paragraph:

Most microfluidic devices in the prior art are based on fluid flowing through microscale passages and chambers, either continuously or in relatively large aliquots. Fluid flow is usually initiated and controlled by electro-osmotic and electrophoretic forces. See, e.g., U.S. patent nos.: 5,632,876, issued April 27, 1997 and titled "Apparatus and Methods for Controlling Fluid Flow in Microchannels;" 5,992,820, issued November 30, 1999 and titled "Flow Control in Microfluidics Devices by Controlled Bubble Formation;" 5,637,469, issued June 10, 1997 and titled "Methods and Apparatus for the Detection of an Analyte Utilizing Mesoscale Flow Systems;"